

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A connection between a metal flange of a fuel supply unit and at least one metal strut, the flange including a plurality of tabs coupled to an underside thereof, the connection including:
a plastic strut holder structure constructed and arranged to hold an end of the at least one metal strut, the plastic strut holder structure being constructed and arranged to engage the tabs, thereby securing the plastic strut holder structure and the at least one metal strut with respect to the flange.
12. (Original) The connection of claim 11, wherein the plastic strut holder structure includes a boss having an opening, the opening being sized to receive an end of the at least one metal strut in a press-fit arrangement.
13. (Original) The connection of claim 11, wherein the tabs are constructed and arranged to be bent to engage a surface of the plastic strut holder, and the plastic strut holder structure includes crush ribs constructed and arranged to deform upon engagement with a tab.
14. (Original) The connection of claim 11, wherein the plastic strut holder structure is a single member having a pair of bosses, each boss having an opening for receiving an associated metal strut, each opening being sized to receive an end of an associated metal strut in a press-fit arrangement.
15. (Original) The connection of claim 11, wherein the tabs are constructed and arranged to be bent so as to engage a surface of the plastic strut holder structure.

16. (Original) The connection of claim 11, wherein each tab includes at least one barb and the plastic strut holder structure includes a tab-receiving member, the tab being received in the tab-receiving member with the barb engaging the tab-receiving member to secure the tab with respect to the tab-receiving member.
17. (Original) A flange assembly of a fuel supply unit comprising:
 - a metal flange having a bottom surface,
 - a plurality of tabs coupled to the bottom surface,
 - at least one metal strut, and
 - a plastic strut holder structure holding an end of the at least one metal strut, the plastic strut holder structure being secured to the flange by engagement with the tabs thereby securing the plastic strut holder structure and the at least one metal strut with respect to the flange.
18. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 17, wherein the plastic strut holder structure includes a boss having an opening, the opening receiving an end of the at least one metal strut in a press-fit arrangement.
19. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 17, wherein the tabs are constructed and arranged to be bent to engage a surface of the plastic strut holder structure, and the plastic strut holder structure includes crush ribs constructed and arranged to deform upon engagement with a tab.
20. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 17, wherein the plastic strut holder structure is a single member having a pair of bosses, each boss having an opening receiving an associated metal strut in a press-fit arrangement.
21. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 20, wherein the single member includes a body having first and second ends and a tab opening there-

through located between the ends, a tab contacting each end and at least an edge that defines a portion of the tab opening.

22. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 17, wherein the tabs are constructed and arranged to be bent so as to engage a surface of the plastic strut holder structure.
23. (Original) The flange assembly of claim 17, wherein each tab includes at least one barb and the plastic strut holder includes a tab-receiving member, the tab being received in the tab-receiving member with the barb engaging the tab-receiving member to secure the tab with respect to the tab-receiving member.